Violence against Christians

412. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last three years, there have been repeated incidents of violence against Christians in which Churches are burnt, priest are murdered, nuns are raped and recently bombs exploded in Christian places of worship and Churches;

(b) whether inspite of repeated reports and pleas, this type of criminal activities continue; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) There has been some isolated incidents of violence and bomb blasts aimed at Christians and their institutions in the recent past in some parts of the country. Most of incidents, however, relate to law and order and crime.

(b) and (c) With the coordinated efforts of the Central and the State Governments (who are primarily concerned with law and order as per Schedule VII, List-II, State List of the Constitution of India) this trend has been contained and the culprits behind some of the bomb blasts have been arrested.

The Central Government shares intelligence inputs, and sends alert messages and advisories to the States from time to time. Revised Guidelines for the Promotion of Communal Harmony have been issued in October 1997. The Central Para-Military Forces are made available on specific requests and a special force called the Rapid Action Force has been deployed to deal exclusively with communal violence. Assistance is provided for the modernization of the State Police Forces.

A High level meeting was convened to review the situation on 4.7.2000 and the State Governments were requested to provide security to the minorities and their institutions and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.

Constitutional Amendment to Accommodate D.G.H.C.

413. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received recommendations of the Government

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